

In the Claims:

2. (Previously Amended) The hand-held cutting tool as claimed in Claim 8 wherein said blunt surfaces are radially inwardly of said sharp surfaces.

3. (Previously Amended) The hand-held cutting tool as claimed in Claim 8 wherein said sharp surfaces are serrated.

8. (Currently Amended) A hand-held cutting tool for cutting a fiber optic cable having an optical fiber surrounded by at least one protective layer comprising:

first and second cutting members pivotably attached to one another about a pivot axis to allow for pivotable movement of the cutting members between an opened position and a closed position, the first and second cutting members each defining a length and a width, the first and second cutting members each including a cutting edge which has a blunt surface and a sharp surface with the blunt surfaces being configured differently from the sharp surfaces, the cutting edges lying in adjacent parallel planes with the cutting edges in facing relation, at least a portion of each blunt surface being spaced a distance from the pivot axis such that the blunt surface of each one of the first and second cutting members extends beyond the width of the other of the first and second cutting member when the cutting edges of the first and second cutting members form an angle in relation to one another which is no larger than 90° ~~which is sufficient to allow a fiber optic cable to be engageable with the blunt surfaces when the cutting members move from the open position to the closed position on a fiber optic cable placed between the cutting members.~~